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SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

NEA FOR BURNS/SATTERFIELD/DIBBLE;
NEA/SA/EX FOR RICHIE; DEPT FOR DS/IP/ITA; DEPT FOR
DS/IP/NEA;
NSC FOR ABRAMS/DANIN; USAID FOR DCHA, DCHA/FPP, PRM FOR
DEWEY/GREENE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KWBG](#) [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [ASEC](#) [CASC](#) [GZ](#) [IS](#)

SUBJECT: WB/G SITREP: THREE PALESTINIANS LIGHTLY INJURED
AND SEVEN OTHERS ARRESTED IN WEST BANK; PALESTINIANS SHOOT
AT IDF SOLDIERS IN GAZA, BUT NO INJURIES RESULT; MARCH 4,
2005 (1300 HOURS LOCAL)

This is a joint ConGen Jerusalem/Embassy Tel Aviv cable.

[11.](#) (SBU) Summary: Palestinians clashed with the IDF on March 3 in areas near Jerusalem and Hebron to protest construction of the separation barrier. Three Palestinians were injured and seven others were arrested in the West Bank March 3-4. Palestinians shot at IDF soldiers in Gaza March 3, but no injuries were reported. End Summary.

West Bank

[12.](#) (SBU) ATTACKS:

-- Deaths: Nil.

-- Clashes/Injuries: Palestinians clashed with the IDF on March 3 in Bayt Surik, northwest of Jerusalem, to protest construction of the separation barrier. At least 16 Palestinians suffered teargas inhalation during the clashes. (See &Arrests8).

-- Clashes/Injuries: Palestinians clashed with the IDF on March 3 in the village of Dura near Hebron to protest construction of the separation barrier. Three Palestinians involved in throwing rocks at IDF soldiers sustained light injuries.

-- Injury: An Israeli motorist on March 3 sustained light injuries after Palestinians threw stones at passing Israeli vehicles traveling along the Modi'in Road (Route 443).

[13.](#) (SBU) ARRESTS/SECURITY:

-- Arrests: Israeli Border Police arrested four Palestinians during clashes with the IDF on March 3 in Bayt Surik over the construction of the separation barrier.

-- Arrests: The IDF on March 3 entered the village of Deir Istiya west of Qalqiliya and arrested two Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) activists.

-- Arrest: The IDF arrested March 3 one Palestinian in the village of Ein el-Beida in the northern Jordan Valley.

-- Weapons Confiscation: Based on information from the PA security services, the IDF on March 3 confiscated a cache of rifles and ammunition from the village of Ya'bad, west of Jenin. The IDF also discovered and defused some explosive devices.

-- Shooting: Unknown individuals fired gunshots the evening of March 3 at the home of former PA Minister for Civil Affairs Jamil Tarifi in Ramallah. There were no reported injuries. The perpetrators fled the scene by car. The PA police are conducting an investigation.

[14.](#) (SBU) POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS:

-- PA President Abbas is scheduled to meet March 4 Jordanian King Abdullah in Amman. According to Palestinian press reports, Abbas and Hamas leader Khaled Mish'al have arranged a meeting in Yemen later this month to discuss a variety of issues, including the cease-fire agreement and upcoming legislative council elections in July.

-- During a March 3 meeting in Ramallah, a contingent of Fatah activists accused the Fatah Central Committee of mismanagement and poor leadership, which, they contend, contributed to the strong showing by Hamas during January municipal elections in the Gaza Strip. According to press reports, 32 Fatah activists announced their resignation from a Fatah steering and mobilization committee in protest.

-- PA Minister of Interior Nasir Yusif is scheduled to visit on March 4 the West Bank cities of Hebron and Bethlehem to confer with the local PA security chiefs.

-- Israeli authorities extended closure orders on March 3 for three Palestinian organizations in East Jerusalem. The Israeli authorities closed the three organizations -- the Islamic Folklore Committee, the Society Development Organization, and the al-Sanabel Cultural Society -- in 2003 for reported ties to Islamic organizations.

Gaza

(SBU) ATTACKS:

-- Deaths: Nil.

-- Injuries: Nil.

-- Mortars/Rockets: Nil.

-- Shootings: The IDF reported that two shooting incidents occurred March 3 between Palestinians and IDF soldiers based in Kfar Darom, but no injuries occurred.

-- Explosions: Nil.

(SBU) INCURSIONS/DEMOLITIONS: Nil.

(SBU) BORDER CROSSINGS:

-- Route Four (Salahadeen Road), the main north-south traffic artery, was open March 4, with a major detour at Netzarim Junction. Only public transportation is allowed to cross Abu Khouli checkpoint.

-- Erez Crossing was open for internationals and for a limited number of Palestinians March 3, and 1,050 laborers and 190 merchants crossed into Israel March 3.

-- The Erez Industrial Zone was open March 3, and 533 laborers entered March 3.

-- Sufa Crossing was closed March 4.

-- Karni Terminal was open, but operating slowly March 4.

-- Rafah Terminal was open for arrivals and departures March 4.

-- Tel al-Sultan checkpoint was closed March 4. Toufah checkpoint was open for residents of al-Mowassi, except for males between the ages of 16-35.

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KURTZER